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29 NOV 1973

Honorable Lee H. Hamilton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Near East and South Asia
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of 20 November 1973 requesting my comments, in open session, or in letter form, on the reasons for the United States alert of 24 October 1973 and its implications.

As you know, I have always responded to requests from the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee that I appear in executive session to testify on matters within the Agency's competence and the Committee's purview. So far as the alert about which you inquire is concerned, the Agency's role was limited mainly to providing intelligence information. This information was based primarily on sensitive sources and methods and, therefore, is not suitable for discussion in open session.

The decisions, and the specific steps, leading to the implementation of the alert were not within the responsibility of this Agency, and, hence, I am in no position to comment on them.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby
Director

cc: Chairman Morgan

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Original - Addressee

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